

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT:GREEK EMBASSY STATEMENT ON TURKISH AID

REF: STATE 172143

1. GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ISSUED A BRIEF FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT JULY 22 SUPPLEMENTING THEIR PRESS RELEASE ON TURKISH AID OF THE PREVIOUS DAY (TEXT IN STATE 172143). THE SUPPLEMENTARY GREEK STATEMENT READS: BEGIN TEXT:"WITH REFERENCE TO STATEMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE, MR. C. CARAMANLIS, I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THE FOLLOWING: THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE HAS AUTHORIZED NO ONE TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF." END TEXT.

2. THE GREEK EMBASSY HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT THIS
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STATEMENT, AS WELL AS THE PRESS RELEASE YESTERDAY, WERE DE-

SIGNED TO ANSWER A LETTER FROM FORMER SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR GEORGE CHRISTOPHER WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATED WIDELY IN CONGRESS. THE TEXT OF THE CHRISTOPHER STATEMENT READS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: "DEAR CONGRESSMAN: SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS BEEN SPREADING A FALSE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT 'GREECE IS NOT AGAINST THE SALE OF ARMS OR AID TO TURKEY.'

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM GREECE, WHERE I HAD CONFERENCES WITH PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS. THE PRIME MINISTER AUTHORIZED ME TO STATE PUBLICLY THE FOLLOWING: 'IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE THAT GREECE IS NOT AGAINST THE SALE OR ARMS OR AID TO TURKEY. THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE IS THAT TURKEY MUST NOT RECEIVE MORE ARMS BY EITHER SALES OR AID UNTIL THEIR 42,000 INVASION TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN AND THE 200,000 CYPRIOT REFUGEES ARE RESTORED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL HOMES. ANYONE WHO DARES TO STATE THAT GREECE HAS ANY OTHER POSITION IS NOT TELLING THE TRUTH.' THE FOREGOING POSITION IS BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION TO LAY REST ANOTHER DELIBERATE KISSINGER UNTRUTH. PLEASE -- LET US UPHOLD OUR DULY ENACTED LAWS. STOP ALL SALES AND AID TO TURKEY UNTIL THIS AGGRESSOR NATION SHOWS SOME SIGN OF COMPLYING WITH THE PROVISIONS OF OUR OWN LAW, AS WELL AS THE BASIC LAWS OF HUMAN DECENCY. ONLY THUS CAN WE PRESERVE AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL INTEGRITY. THANK YOU. SINCERELY, GEORGE CHRISTOPHER, FORMER MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE CYPRUS RELIEF FUND." END TEXT.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE GREEK EMBASSY HAS CLAIMED THAT ITS LATEST STATEMENT CLARIFIES THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TURKISH AID, IT STRIKES US THAT ITS LATEST STATEMENT HAS IF ANYTHING MERELY MUDDIED THE WATERS STILL FURTHER. IF THE STATEMENT MEANS ANYTHING, IT PROBABLY INDICATES THAT WHILE FORMER MAYOR CHRISTOPHER WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK DIRECTLY FOR PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS, THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS STATEMENT DOES IN FACT CONTAIN THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

4. NEITHER THE GREEK STATEMENT OF JULY 21 NOR THE
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CHRISTOPHER LETTER HAVE AS YET RECEIVED ANY PUBLICITY IN THE AMERICAN PRESS. KISSINGER

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